

the miners and their wives the teas in their homes, the talks with them round the fire, after the meetings, is really one of the romantic episodes in their lives To the ciude, external view, he was an absurd candidate for Seaham, and she was not much better *The Times* was so impressed with this absurdity, indeed, that when the result came out in 1922, they misprinted figures in which they could not believe; his immense majority appeared in their early editions as a series of noughts Actually, the forthright, intelligent, warmhearted men and women of Durham County were more than impressed by this, at first, strange candidate As they got to know him personally—his record, of course, they already knew—they acquired a warm affection for him They have an instinctive power of separating the real from the sham here was something real His utter and transparent disinterestedness was a fact they saw, almost at once, and never let go Her, too, they liked, she did not frighten them, as she often frightens the shallow

When the casting of votes took place, in the autumn of 1922, he not only got in he achieved a record majority of over eleven thousand, 20,203 votes being given to him against 9,000 for his opponent Nor, afterwards, did Seaham ever waver in its allegiance His majority went up in 1923, and was steady in 1924 when the Red Letter undermined so many apparently solid majorities For as long as he was willing to represent it, the constituency was his

As M P for Seaham, he took his seat in

1922 With that,
a new chapter in the life of the firm of Webb
plainly opens*